

To: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Contact Us (response #2989)
From: Annette Ramirez/ClerkRec/COSLO - Monday 03/07/2016 08:52 AM

Annette Ramirez | Deputy Clerk-Recorder | San Luis Obispo County Clerk-Recorder
| San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Telephone: | Fax: Website: www.SLOvote.com

www.facebook.com/slocountyclerkrec | www.twitter.com/slocountyclerk

----- Forwarded by Annette Ramirez/ClerkRec/COSLO on 03/07/2016 08:52 AM -----

From: Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO
To: BOS_Legislative Assistants, Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO@Wings, Catrina Christensen/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings, Annette Ramirez/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings
Date: 02/26/2016 08:10 AM
Subject: Fw: Contact Us (response #2989)
Sent by: Juliane Hendricks

forwarding this on to everyone along with Holly Phipps and the Clerk of the Board

Thank you

Juliane D Hendricks

----- Forwarded by Juliane Hendricks/BOS/COSLO on 02/26/2016 08:09 AM -----

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>
To: "BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us>,
Date: 02/25/2016 05:39 PM
Subject: Contact Us (response #2989)

Contact Us (response #2989)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO
Page Title:Contact Us
URL:<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm>
Submission Time/Date:2/25/2016 5:39:12 PM

Survey Response

Name:
Pam and Richard Zweifel

Telephone Number:

Email address:
pmz5k@sbcglobal.net

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):
Dear County Board of Supervisors,
We are writing to declare our support for the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton.
The need for such a facility in our county is clear. Our personal experience with our son caused us to travel to Los Angeles for inpatient psychiatric care on numerous occasions because there is

no facility for acute psychiatric care in our county. We are asking that you support the recommendation of the Planning Department and vote in favor of this facility. Respectfully.
Pam and Richard Zweifel



To: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,
Cc:
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Subject: Fw: Contact Us (response #2989)
From: Annette Ramirez/ClerkRec/COSLO - Monday 03/07/2016 08:52 AM

Annette Ramirez | Deputy Clerk-Recorder | San Luis Obispo County Clerk-Recorder
| San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
Telephone: () | Fax: () | Website: www.SLOvote.com
www.facebook.com/slocountyclerkrec | www.twitter.com/slocountyclerk
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To: BOS_Legislative Assistants, Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO@Wings, Catrina Christensen/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings, Annette Ramirez/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings
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Email address:
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Pam and Richard Zweifel



Correspondence regarding Templeton Beh . Hospital
Tessa Cornejo to: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder

03/07/2016 01:29 PM

Thank you!



doc03796920160307133955.pdf

Sincerely,

Tessa Cornejo
Administrative Services Officer
Secretary to Dan Buckshi, CAO & Guy Savage ACAO
San Luis Obispo County, Administrative Office
www.slocounty.ca.gov

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www.facebook.com/SLOCountyGov
www.twitter.com/SLO_CountyGov
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EACH SUPERVISOR
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RECEIVED

MAR - 7 2016

Lynn Compton, Supervisor
County of San Luis Obispo

Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County

A BIT OF HISTORY FROM MY EXPERIENCE WITH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Please vote to approve the mental health hospital in Templeton to add needed help for SLO County residents!! We have an investor with local history ready to build on a site that is zoned and planned for medical care. The time is now and the place is there!!

I am a retired social worker with a Master's Degree and 36 years of experience in serving people with mental health needs and developmental disabilities. From San Luis Obispo County, most people who had mental illness were sent to Camarillo State Hospital, which is now Channel Islands State University. In the early 1970's I led a team to evaluate all people sent there from SLO County as long as 40 years previously, and began to bring them home. One young man I met and placed in a care home is still a friend of mine. An older lady had been there for 40 years at great cost and isolation. I placed her in a local nursing home where she read to other residents and helped them write letters to family. She renewed relationships with her local son and his family.

In addition to Camarillo State Hospital, I helped place people from now-closed State Hospitals in Modesto, Stockton, Auburn, Mendocino, and Agnews in San Jose. With newer medications and treatments, the need for large, isolated, locked facilities was reduced. Local treatment could be cheaper and more effective with family support nearby. The problem with the depopulation program was the broken promise that the money saved from closing State Hospitals would be available to Counties for local treatment.

I know that SLO County has needed significantly more mental health resources for decades. Our local SLO County inpatient unit and services are limited by funding and serve primarily people who rely on MediCal. Residents with insurance or money must seek services outside the County. I know many people who have gone to Ventura for service, and some who have not received help. Every year local news stories reveal the eventual cost of people not getting proper treatment.

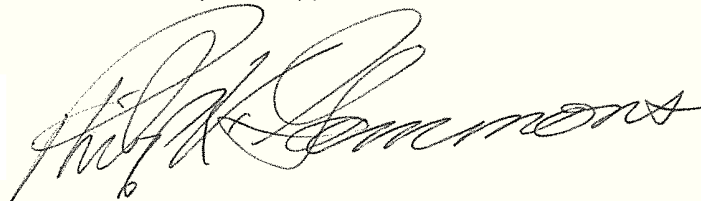
Another piece of history I have witnessed was the closure of the old small County hospitals in both Paso Robles and Atascadero. The County zoned a large acreage of empty fields near the freeway in Templeton to build Twin Cities to serve the entire North County. The doctors, labs, skilled nursing, and entire medical community there is a very appropriate place to add new mental health services. Mental health and physical health are closely related and share many specialties.

From my experience there is little danger from people needing mental health help with a new and modern facility in our County. People and families who receive help are healthier and have more resources to manage well. There is no telling when we will have another opportunity to add such services here, and we have the proper zoning in place. A facility will also increase the number of mental health practitioners in the area for follow-up and support services.

Phil Gammons, MSW

[Redacted Signature]

March 4, 2016





To: BOS_Legislative Assistants, cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Contact Us (response #2994)
From: Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO - Monday 03/07/2016 02:02 PM
Sent by: Juliane Hendricks/BOS/COSLO

Forwarding this on to everyone.

Thank you

Juliane D Hendricks

----- Forwarded by Juliane Hendricks/BOS/COSLO on 03/07/2016 02:01 PM -----

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>
To: "BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us>,
Date: 03/07/2016 01:08 PM
Subject: Contact Us (response #2994)

Contact Us (response #2994)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO
Page Title:Contact Us
URL:<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm>
Submission Time/Date:3/7/2016 1:07:59 PM

Survey Response

Name:
Pearl Munak

Telephone Number:

Email address:

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):
Please approve the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton. We need it so much. People have to be sent out of county for treatment, and can't get treatment out of county because other hospitals are full. I have been volunteering for social service non-profits for fifteen years and have seen the need. The location next to Twin Cities Hospital is ideal for coordination of physical and behavioral health care. Don't let misinformation and stereotyping keep this from happening. It could be many years before another proposal is made. Thank you.



To: BOS_Legislative Assistants@co.slo.ca.us,
Cc: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Support for Proposed Mental Health Inpatient Treatment Facility
From: Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO - Tuesday 03/08/2016 06:49 AM
Sent: Tessa Cornejo/Admin/COSLO
by:

Forwarded to everyone. A copy has also been forwarded to the clerk.

----- Forwarded by Tessa Cornejo/Admin/COSLO on 03/08/2016 06:48 AM -----

From: Laura DeLoye <mariposamusictherapy@gmail.com>
To: boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us
Cc: Barry Johnson <bjohnson@t-mha.org>, Marie Brinkmeyer <rsvpslo@srvolunteer.org>, Emma Caballero <ecaballero@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 03/07/2016 05:29 PM
Subject: Support for Proposed Mental Health Inpatient Treatment Facility

Dear San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors,

Regarding the proposed Templeton Mental Health Facility: the Adult Services Policy Council, representing over 40 non-profit, private organizations and public agencies in San Luis Obispo County, supports the development of a mental health facility in our County to meet the needs of residents with mental illness and their family members.

The current availability of local mental health treatment beds is not adequate for a county of our size. Below we have attached the letter we sent to the SLO County Planning Commission in January outlining our views on this project.

We appreciate your diligence and efforts in helping our County move forward with adequate health care for all those in need.

Respectfully,

Laura DeLoye
Chair, Adult Services Policy Council
Mariposa Music Therapy / Arts for Living
MariposaMusicTherapy@gmail.com

San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

Barry Johnson
Vice-Chair, Adult Services Policy Council
Transitions-Mental Health Association
Division Director, Rehabilitation and Advocacy Services

San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Marie Brinkmeyer
Past Chair, Adult Service Policy Council
RSVP
Director

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Dear Chairperson Topping and Planning Commissioners,

As the Chair of the SLO County Adult Services Policy Council (ASPC) I am writing to you with the Council's support as concerned professionals and citizens working and living in SLO County, to ask that you please consider supporting the proposal of a new Mental Health Inpatient facility, continuing to be addressed at the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, January 14.

Recent ASPC meetings have addressed the Mental Health needs of our region's older adults and adults with disabilities. Information has been presented to us by County professionals recognizing the support needed for additional mental health beds within our County. From these presentations and committee discussion, our committee has recognized a dire need of additional mental health support in the region. As a county-wide council, we do not take a stand on where those beds should be located. We do, however, strongly support the addition of licensed beds within the County that will meet the needs of all of our County residents. We are aware that the only currently proposed facility before the Planning Commission is to be located in Templeton near Twin Cities Hospital and other medical services. The addition of this facility would significantly ease the current strain in our mental health care system; we hope that you will provide adequate consideration to that proposal.

In November, Judy Vick, LMFT, manager of SLO County Behavioral Health, presented to ASPC, confirming that there are 16 licensed inpatient mental health beds at the SLO facility on Johnson Avenue. Up to four of those 16 beds can serve children or teens, allotting only 12 - 16 beds available for inpatient mental health treatment of adults and seniors who are primarily either indigent or Medi-Cal recipients. All individuals with medical insurance needing inpatient mental health treatment are sent out of the County. This means that other counties are providing mental health treatment for residents of SLO County. Moving SLO County residents to another county for treatment removes them from proximity to their families and social support systems, greatly reducing the ability for family and social support systems to be actively involved in visitation, treatment and the development of a stabilization plan for their return to their community within SLO County.

According to the presentation by Judy Vick, research shows that 140 beds are needed within San Luis Obispo County in order to address the inpatient mental health needs of our residents within the County. The current 16 beds available for indigent and Medi-Cal patients falls significantly short of the 140 beds needed to serve the basic needs of our County.

Please support the development of an adequate number of mental health beds to meet the needs of San Luis Obispo County residents requiring inpatient mental health treatment.

We appreciate your consideration of the current proposal on this very important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Adult Services Policy Council of SLO County

Laura DeLoye, Chair

Subject: Letters for next weeks hearing on Behavioral Health Facility in Templeton
From: Vicki Shelby
To: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder
Date: 03/08/2016 09:12 AM

Thought I'd get some of the letters we've been saving up for you ---

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman
Legislative Assistant for
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham

San Luis Obispo CA 93408

email: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful" - Frank G. Burgess
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been" - Mark Twain

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 01/15/2016 11:19 AM
Subject: Fw: Proposed Psychiatric Care Facility in Templeton
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 01/15/2016 11:19 AM -----

From: <frmjeri2u@aol.com>
To: "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 01/15/2016 08:15 AM
Subject: Proposed Psychiatric Care Facility in Templeton

Dear Mr. Mecham,

As my representative in Templeton, I am asking that you deny the Planning Commission's approval of the proposed psychiatric facility in Templeton .

I expect you've become fatigued at hearing/reading the repetitive comments of citizens opposed to the facility, but I hope you remember that the repetitive nature of those

arguments does not negate the legitimacy of said arguments

I am quite puzzled as to why this project is even being considered for Templeton . The size and scale of the project is massively oversized for a community services district with a population of less than 10,000 people.

According to my research in the ENTIRE STATE of California :

ALL facilities (of 80 beds or more) are located in cities with a population of AT LEAST 100,000 people.

ALL facilities (of 20 beds or more) are located in cities with a population of AT LEAST 50,000 people.

NO facilities (of any size) are located in a community without a dedicated municipal police department.

NO facilities (of any size) are located in a community services district.

I am a simple layperson, but even I recognize that the magnitude of this project belies all logic.

It's not fear of mental illness that concerns the average resident of Templeton in regard to this project, it's the realization that common sense will be disregarded as our community becomes the location of a poorly conceived psychiatric facility touted as '**the answer**' to a lack of mental health services in our county.

The San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission thinks that this project , as it stands now, is appropriate for Templeton despite the fact that Templeton clearly DOES NOT fit the criteria necessary for an acute psychiatric facility of this size and significance . I would certainly like a clear and logical response as to why , despite what my research shows, Templeton residents deserve no better than to be subjected to this unreasoned project .

Should this facility be approved , I will simply file away all of my literature, letters, emails, and experiences (borne from the reality of being a Templeton resident who recognizes the repercussions of this project within my community), until the negative consequences of this facility are realized and I become known as one of the many chorus of voices which were initially ignored.

A 20-bed facility is one thing. A 91-bed facility in a community services district with less than 10,000 people and NO DEDICATED municipal police department ? **That's an experiment since *no other such facility like the proposed facility* exists anywhere in the entire state of California in a community such as Templeton .**

As it stands now, the proposed psychiatric care facility does NOT belong in Templeton .

Sincerely,

Jeryl Luther

Sent from Windows Mail

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 01/20/2016 11:35 AM
Subject: Fw: Mental Health
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

San Luis
(805) 781-5450

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 01/20/2016 11:35 AM -----

From: "Signa Schmidt" <signacares@charter.net>
To: "Mecham Frank" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 01/19/2016 12:02 PM
Subject: Mental Health

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Dear Supervisor Mecham,
I was delighted when the Planning Commission voted 7-0 in favor of our North County Proposed Mental Health Care Hospital. As a Registered Nurse for 41 years I certainly can attest to the need we have for this facility. The nay Sayers spoke the same rhetoric with the acute care hospital Twin Cities which I helped open. We all know it has been a blessing and an asset to our community. When it comes to your vote I certainly hope you will add to the health of our community and our nation by a yes vote. Mental illness and addiction know no boundaries and "but for the grace of God there go I." Thanks you so much for your time and attention in this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Signa Schmidt RN

Atascadero, Ca.

signacares@charter.net

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 01/21/2016 09:15 AM
Subject: Fw: Mental Health
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

San Luis Obispo , CA 93408

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 01/21/2016 09:15 AM -----

From: "Signa Schmidt" <signacares@charter.net>
To: "Mecham Frank" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 01/19/2016 12:02 PM
Subject: Mental Health

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Sincerely,

Signa Schmidt RN

Atascadero, Ca.

signacares@charter.net

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 01/25/2016 04:02 PM
Subject: Fw: Templeton Psychiatric Health Facility
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

San Luis Obispo, C

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 01/25/2016 04:02 PM -----

From: Thomas Wright <tomwright@thegrid.net>
To: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 01/25/2016 03:46 PM
Subject: Templeton Psychiatric Health Facility

Mr. Mecham,

Templeton is not the place for a facility like the one being proposed. It is too large for this small town, among many other problems it would bring.

My family and I have lived here for a quarter century, and we plan on living here much longer. And with as hard as I've worked to have a home here in Templeton, I don't want my property value going down. The project belongs in a large city. It makes no sense to have it here. Look further north or south and there are many large cities where it would make much more sense to build the facility. Templeton does not have the infrastructure to handle this facility. The traffic is already too much for the area. I have said that to my wife for a while now, long before ever hearing about this project, so having a large facility built will make it that much more congested. Please say no to the proposed psychiatric health facility.

Thank you,

Tom Wright
Templeton Resident

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 01/25/2016 04:02 PM
Subject: Fw: Templeton Psychiatric Facility
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 01/25/2016 04:02 PM -----

From: Elizabeth Wright <veryhappy@thegrid.net>
To: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 01/25/2016 02:25 PM
Subject: Templeton Psychiatric Facility

Mr Mecham,

My family and I are completely opposed to the proposed mental health facility in Templeton. Templeton is not the place for a facility like the one being proposed. It is too large for this small town, we will be importing patients from all around, the traffic will increase, which is already congested. These are just a few of the problems with this project. I also believe it will draw a criminal element to the area. It would be located right next to residential neighborhoods because our town is so small. I think it's ridiculous to even consider Templeton as a location for such a project.

It's a burden on the whole town in many ways.

This sounds like a facility that would be much better in a large city. There are many options for them to choose from. The owner's can make their money elsewhere. I don't have a problem with people making money, but NOT at the expense of the people who live here.

Please vote no on the proposed psychiatric health facility.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Wright
Templeton Resident

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO
To: Jim Gregory <jdouglassgregory@gmail.com>
Cc: ahill@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us, cmckee@co.slo.ca.us, darnold@co.slo.ca.us, fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, hmiller@co.slo.ca.us, jbrennan@co.slo.ca.us, jcaffee@co.slo.ca.us, lcompton@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 02/03/2016 09:00 AM
Subject: Re: The Psychiatric Treatment Facility

Thanks you Mr. Gregory for your comments. We will make sure that your comments are included in the record for the hearing that will be scheduled (we hope) in March.

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman
Legislative Assistant for
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham

San Luis Obispo CA 93408

email: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful" - Frank G. Burgess

"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been" - Mark Twain

Jim Gregory

2 February 2016 To the San Luis Obispo Co...

02/02/2016 01:26:40 PM

From: Jim Gregory <jdouglassgregory@gmail.com>
To: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us, cmckee@co.slo.ca.us, hmiller@co.slo.ca.us, jbrennan@co.slo.ca.us, jcaffee@co.slo.ca.us, fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us, ahill@co.slo.ca.us, lcompton@co.slo.ca.us, darnold@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 02/02/2016 01:26 PM
Subject: The Psychiatric Treatment Facility

2 February 2016

To the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors and to their Legislative Assistants:

I understand that there is vigorous opposition to having a psychiatric treatment facility in Templeton. Neighbors of such a facility are perhaps alarmed by the prospect of having "crazy people" as neighbors. That is a group that would include me.

I think I would disappoint those fearful people. Instead of the Hannibal Lecter they might be prepared for, they would see instead a small man, soft-spoken but very funny—I'm Irish, after all-- who has a fondness for cats, dogs, and babies, but, most of all, for teenagers.

My name is Jim Gregory. I am a retired high school history teacher—eleven years at Mission Prep, nineteen at Arroyo Grande High School-- whose greatest joy in life has been my time with young people. I was Lucia Mar District's Teacher of the Year. I've taught three Advanced Placement Courses in history and government as well as American Literature and Modern World Literature. I've designed courses as diverse as Cultural Anthropology and American Film History. I've led several student trips to Europe. I've had at least eight of my kids become history teachers. I've had three babies named for me.

I wrote a book, just published in January, *World War II Arroyo Grande* , which has just sold out of its first printing, and I plan to write more books; the next one, I think, about the Civil War years of some of the 58 Union Army veterans buried here in Arroyo Grande. I have been married to a wonderful woman--she's a teacher and the Campus Minister at St. Joseph High School-- for nearly thirty years and we have two sons who make me immensely proud.

I grew up in the Upper Arroyo Grande Valley, where my mother, at 48, committed suicide. I was seventeen. I came home from school to find her dying. I tried to revive her after calling an ambulance, but the barbiturates she'd taken had hold of her and I couldn't get her back.

I have more than likely inherited her depression; there seems to be plausible evidence for genetic causality. So the illness (Churchill called his "The Black Dog;" Lincoln's was "The Hypo") has followed me, too, remorseless and implacable, for almost fifty years. I have attempted to take my own life. I have been hospitalized three times in years past for depression so profound as to be bone-crushing, so agonizing as to make suicide the most dispassionate and compellingly rational of choices.

At no point in those hospitalizations was I a danger to anyone other than myself. At no point did I feel endangered by any of my fellow patients also undergoing psychiatric treatment. They were nearly all hospitalized for depressive disorders, but there were also patients fighting addictions, including heroin addiction.

Here is what those psychiatric facilities in someone else's back yard did for me.

They saved my life.

They saved a life spent teaching, counseling and encouraging young people, because another trait my mother left me was the capacity to see the good person in nearly

every student I've ever taught, to call that goodness out, and to show it to them so that each understands how valuable he or she truly is. This was a marvelous inheritance to receive from her.

But the problem with depression is that it is a skillful and fluid liar, and the disease deceived my mother into believing that her own life had lost its value.

If she had, in her time, a place to go and get help, she might have lived long enough to see her grandsons and long enough to be proud of the son who has lived his life for the express purpose of making her proud. I never had the chance to repay her with the gifts I meant her to have.

I could not have asked for a better mother. And, even though every step of my life's journey has been a struggle, I could not have asked for a better life. But I needed help to make it so.

Who among us hasn't?

Jim Gregory

Arroyo Grande CA

Attached: My mother, Patricia Margaret Keefe Gregory, with my big sister, 1943. Me, with some of my students, visiting the grave of a San Luis Obispo County GI, Pvt. Domingo Martinez, buried at the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, just above Omaha Beach, Normandy.



----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO
To: Cherie McKee/BOS/COSLO@Wings, Jocelyn Brennan/BOS/COSLO@Wings, Hannah Miller/BOS/COSLO@Wings, Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO@Wings, Fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, Ahill@co.slo.ca.us, DArnold@co.slo.ca.us, lcompton@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 02/03/2016 09:06 AM
Subject: Behavioral Health Facility

Please forward all emails on this to me. I've started a file to send to the Clerk when we have a firm date. Thank you.

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman
Legislative Assistant for
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham

email: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful" - Frank G. Burgess
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been" - Mark Twain

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 02/08/2016 08:37 AM
Subject: Fw: Templeton Psychiatric facility
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 02/08/2016 08:37 AM -----

From: Chris & Rhonda Marshall <chris.rhonda@gmail.com>
To: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us, ahill@co.slo.ca.us, lcompton@co.slo.ca.us, darnold@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 02/08/2016 08:37 AM
Subject: Templeton Psychiatric facility

To all board members: Frank Mecham; Bruce Gibson; Adam Hill; Lynn Compton; Debbie Arnold,

I am adamantly against the proposed large-scale psychiatric health facility that is to be built across from Twin Cities Hospital here in Templeton. It does not belong here, especially so near residential areas.

No matter how many promises that were made by those who stand to make a lot of money from this project, as far as keeping it local and keeping the patients off the streets, we all know that is never enforced. It is not their concern, as they don't live around here. Once built, they'll leave the problem for us to deal with.

Building this facility here will also lower our property values. We've worked too hard to improve our homes over the years to have that destroy our equity.

If any of you on the board lived near where this facility is proposed, I highly doubt you'd want it put in your neighborhood.

As much as we need more of these facilities, they belong in larger cities. It makes no sense to put it here.

Please vote against this!

Thank you,

Christopher Marshall

Templeton Resident

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 02/08/2016 10:27 AM
Subject: Fw: Templeton Psychiatric Hospital
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 02/08/2016 10:27 AM -----

From: Chris & Rhonda Marshall <chris.rhonda@gmail.com>
To: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us, ahill@co.slo.ca.us, lcompton@co.slo.ca.us, darnold@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 02/08/2016 08:37 AM
Subject: Templeton Psychiatric Hospital

To all board members: Frank Mecham; Bruce Gibson; Adam Hill; Lynn Compton; Debbie Arnold,
I am adamantly against the proposed large-scale psychiatric health facility that is to be built across from Twin Cities Hospital here in Templeton. It does not belong here, especially so near residential areas.

No matter how many promises that were made by those who stand to make a lot of money from this project, as far as keeping it local and keeping the patients off the streets, we all know that is never

enforced. It is not their concern, as they don't live around here. Once built, they'll leave the problem for us to deal with.

Building this facility here will also lower our property values. We've worked too hard to improve our homes over the years to have that destroy our equity.

If any of you on the board lived near where this facility is proposed, I highly doubt you'd want it put in your neighborhood.

As much as we need more of these facilities, they belong in larger cities. It makes no sense to put it here.

Please vote against this!

Thank you,

Rhonda Marshall

Templeton Resident

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 02/08/2016 12:18 PM
Subject: Fw: Billig Project
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 02/08/2016 12:18 PM -----

From: Robert Rosales <robert@rosalesrealty.com>
To: Frank Mecham <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: Vicki Shelby <vshelby@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 02/08/2016 11:12 AM
Subject: Billig Project

Good morning,

Hope you enjoyed the weekend...

Following up on our conversation on Friday regarding the Billig project - Per their website, the Aurora Vista Del Mar behavioral health facility in Ventura is an 87 bed unit on 16 acres...The Billig project has a 91 bed behavioral health unit and 60 bed memory care unit on 3.44 acres...

Talk to you soon - Rob

--

Robert Rosales • Broker
Rosales Realty BRE#01854524



•  Robert@RosalesRealty.com

The information contained in this e-mail and any attachments thereto, is confidential and may be legally privileged. It is intended solely for the addressee(s) named herein. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution or any action taken or omitted to be taken in reliance on it, is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify us immediately by replying to this message and then permanently deleting the original and destroying any printout. Your receipt of this message is not intended to waive any applicable privileges.



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Christine Parker-Kennedy <cparkerkennedy@gmail.com>
To: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us
Cc: Supervisor Mecham <vshelby@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 02/11/2016 05:30 PM
Subject: Templeton Behavioral Health Facility

Dear Supervisor Mecham,

Last spring, I met with you and your assistant Vicki, along with Susan and John Armstrong, in support of the proposed Templeton Behavioral Health Facility. We are all constituents of your district. At that time, you seemed receptive to our concerns and we appreciated the opportunity to address what we feel are the very positive merits of this hospital.

Since then, we have continued to advocate for the project, listening to many personal stories of those who have, in the past, been unable to get the help they needed for themselves or for friends and family members living in this county.

We attended both Planning Commission meetings in January and February, and found the process interesting and informative. The opposition folks presented numerous arguments against the proposal, but their points, in my opinion, were thoughtfully and successfully addressed and refuted by the project's architect, lawyer, engineer and owners. The 5-0 vote by the Commissioners in favor of allowing the BHH to move forward was a powerful acknowledgement of the strong need we have in this county for quality mental health treatment. Three of the five justified their votes based on personal experiences with family members who were unable to find essential resources in this county.

Now that the approval of the project is being appealed to your Board of

Supervisors, I am writing to again encourage you to stand in favor of this comprehensive and much-needed facility. This is an opportunity for our county to house a state-of-the-art facility, and we are fortunate that the Billigs are willing to fund and build it to the highest standards. Please vote with your Commissioners to allow this project to go forward, so that people with mental health issues in our county can feel supported and hopeful.

Sincerely,

Chris (and John) Parker-Kennedy

Paso Robles, CA 93446

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO

Item No. 11
Meeting Date: March 15, 2016
Presented by: Legislative Assistant
Rec'd prior to meeting & posted to web on: March 9, 2016

To: BOS_Legislative Assistants, Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO@Wings, Catrina Christensen/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings, Annette Ramirez/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings
Date: 02/26/2016 08:10 AM
Subject: Fw: Contact Us (response #2989)
Sent by: Juliane Hendricks

forwarding this on to everyone along with Holly Phipps and the Clerk of the Board

Thank you

Juliane D Hendricks

----- Forwarded by Juliane Hendricks/BOS/COSLO on 02/26/2016 08:09 AM -----

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>
To: "BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us>,
Date: 02/25/2016 05:39 PM
Subject: Contact Us (response #2989)

Contact Us (response #2989)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO
Page Title:Contact Us
URL:<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm>
Submission Time/Date:2/25/2016 5:39:12 PM

Survey Response

Name:
Pam and Richard Zweifel

Telephone Number:

Email address:
pmz5k@sbcglobal.net

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):

Dear County Board of Supervisors,
We are writing to declare our support for the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton. The need for such a facility in our county is clear. Our personal experience with our son caused us to travel to Los Angeles for inpatient psychiatric care on numerous occasions because there is no facility for acute psychiatric care in our county. We are asking that you support the recommendation of the Planning Department and vote in favor of this facility.
Respectfully,
Pam and Richard Zweifel

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 02/26/2016 10:17 AM
Subject: Fw: Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 02/26/2016 10:16 AM -----

From: Susan and John Armstrong <jarmstrong@thegrid.net>
To: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 02/24/2016 05:05 PM
Subject: Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital

Supervisor Frank Mecham
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo, California

February 24, 2016

Dear Supervisor Mecham,
We are 47 year residents of the county, living the last 20 years on Eric Lane in Templeton.
We strongly support having the Behavioral Health Hospital in our community. The local need for mental health services, and specifically for acute treatment beds, is well documented. We have had personal family experience with mental illness and also friends, neighbors and co-workers in need of help.
Mental illness is treatable and having this facility locally would mean timely and effective treatment could be offered. Placing this facility near Twin Cities Hospital and other existing medical services is an excellent idea. The proposed Behavioral Health Hospital will result in healthier citizens of our county and a better quality of life for all of us.
We urge you to vote for the approval of this project.
Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Susan and John Armstrong

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 02/26/2016 10:18 AM
Subject: Fw: Support the Behavioral Health Center
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 02/26/2016 10:17 AM -----

From: Ellen Beraud <ellenberaud@gmail.com>
To: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, gibson@co.slo.ca.us, chill@co.slo.ca.us, lcompton@co.slo.ca.us, darnold@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 02/25/2016 08:07 PM
Subject: Support the Behavioral Health Center

Dear Supervisors,

Please support the acute care mental health center proposed in Templeton.
As a state employee working at Atascadero's State Hospital, I am well aware how mental illness affects our society.

We need effective early intervention to keep our citizens as functioning people in our communities and prevent early incarceration of untreated sufferers of mental illness.

It is lack of access to care that is threat to our communities. The Behavioral Health Center proposed is a step in the right direction, uphold the Planning Commission's decision and let's get it built!

Sincerely,
Ellen Beraud, RD
Clinical Dietitian
Department of State Hospitals- Atascadero

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: WJONEIL <woneil4488@earthlink.net>
To: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us
Cc: bill <woneil4488@earthlink.net>, "vshelby@co.slo.ca.us" <vshelby@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 02/29/2016 09:44 PM
Subject: Fw: Mental Health Hospital

Dear Supervisor Mecham,
I did not realize I could email you directly (as my wife already has done).
I am doing so now to doubly ensure you see my message in the most timely way possible. Thank you.
Bill O'Neil

-----Forwarded Message-----

From: WJONEIL
Sent: Feb 29, 2016 1:25 PM
To: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us
Cc: "Hphipp@Co.slo.ca.us", diane , bill , "RaaobertHartzell@aol.com"
Subject: Mental Health Hospital

Dear Ms. Shelby,
If at all possible, would you please see that Supervisor Mecham reads this letter prior to this Thursday. I will be meeting with him at 9am Thursday morning in the company of Robert Hartzell. Thank you.
William O'Neil

Dear Supervisor Frank Mecham,

Having spent many years as a Project Manager in the NASA Space Program, I have often been in project reviews, sometimes as reviewer and others being reviewed. With this perspective, I was very impressed with your Planning Commission as I attended the entirety of the two public review sessions for the BHC in Templeton. Your Commission was very professional, patient, and courteous to everyone. The thoroughness and thoughtfulness of their review were exemplarily. There can be no legitimate case for overturning their unanimous approval. I have read the Appeal. It re-states all the arguments the Opposition has been making from the beginning. Nothing new. As I have stated publicly, the seemingly most powerful of their arguments are simply not true, so much so that many are very dishonest. Anyone who has seriously looked into this matter knows they are fabrications with no factual basis. It is outrageous for the Opposition to say: "we have determined that a 15-20 bed facility would meet the need". They have no credentials whatsoever to determine anything of the sort, whereas, all professional assessments from SLO County Mental Health all the way to the National Institute of Health indicate the 91-bed facility is right for our County. It appalls me that these opponents continue to base their estimates of need on the number of people currently sent out of County for treatment.

They purposefully totally ignore the tragedy that many more residents who need and deserve treatment do not receive it because the County does not have adequate facilities. How cruel! With over 35 years experience managing both a mentally-ill son and daughter, including hundreds of visits to mental health facilities, I am confident that the need is easily five times the number of folks who currently leave SLO County for treatment. The opponents further claim that the majority of patients in our new Hospital will come from other counties. Ridiculous! If SLO County now sends patients to other counties why would those counties send patients to SLO when they obviously have more than adequate facilities of their own?

Please do not delay your approval of this desperately needed Hospital to respond to further delaying tactics by the opponents. Delays WILL result in additional, avoidable anguish in many County families and quite possibly loss of life due to lack of treatment. Just consider the County news of the past few years. Yes, it is true this Hospital will not treat violent patients, but it is treatment that can prevent patients from becoming violent.

Please support YOUR Commission and their hard, thoughtful work and reject this Appeal. It is totally without merit and truly an affront to the citizens of San Luis Obispo County. That one-thousand people would deny a quarter-million SLO County residents a desperately needed hospital is mind-boggling. If ever a County-wide perspective is needed, this surely is the time.

Respectfully yours,

William J. O'Neil
Atascadero

P.S., I am greatly looking forward to meeting with you in the company of my good friend Bob Hartzell this Thursday morning at 9:00 am.

cc: Holly Phipps

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO
To: WJONEIL <woneil4488@earthlink.net>
Cc: diane <dianegoneil@mac.com>, "Hphipps@Co.slo.ca.us" <hphipps@co.slo.ca.us>, "RaaobertHartzell@aol.com" <RobertHartzell@aol.com>
Date: 03/01/2016 09:49 AM
Subject: Re: Mental Health Hospital

Sent to the Supervisor and see you Thursday.

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman
Legislative Assistant for
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham

email: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful" - Frank G. Burgess
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been" - Mark Twain

WJONEIL

Dear Ms. Shelby, If at all possible, would you...

02/29/2016 01:26:01 PM

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 03/01/2016 10:32 AM
Subject: Fw: MENTAL Health Center
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/01/2016 10:32 AM -----

From: Diane O'Neil <dianegoneil@mac.com>
To: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 02/29/2016 04:03 PM
Subject: MENTAL Health Center

Dear Supervisor Frank Mechum,
Beautiful Minds: Facts, not fear

Would you or those living near the proposed mental health facility fear having Ted Turner, Carrie Fisher, Brooke Shields, Mike Wallace, Jane Pauley, Patty Duke, or Buzz Aldrin as their neighbors? Would the likes of Abe Lincoln, Beethoven Van Gogh, Isacc Newton, Winston Churchill, John Nash (Noble Prize Winner) Ernst Hemingway, and Emily Dickinson not be allowed to walk the streets or be near local schools? These and many other famous people suffered with mental illness and spoke publicly or wrote about their diseases. Many stated they recovered with medication and therapy. One stated, "If we're lucky, the next generation won't drag around that personal stigma," So for you on the SLO Planning Commission, will you continue the stigma of mental illness yet in 2015 by turning down the opportunity for the county to have a state of the art hospital right in our backyard near hospitals and physicians in the perfect area. The Billigs have the foresight and opportunity to do that for the hundreds in our community and county to make a difference for the 1 in 4 people, including possibly your relative or neighbor, that might be affected by a chemical imbalance of the brain sometime in their life time. No one has considered doing this!

I have been the parent of 2 adult children with mental illness for 35 years now. I personally visited my son over 200 times in mental institutions in the Pasadena area when he suffered from 27 bi-polar episodes over 23 years. We didn't even know that our local Pasadena and Arcadia hospitals provided mental health hospitalization in very up-scale neighborhoods. Since he was less than 20 minutes away when recovering, we were fortunate that we could visit him nightly, always bringing a smile to his face, knowing that we loved and cared for him. The same was true for all the other patients who welcomed the sight of family members. He graduated with honors from high school, received athlete of the year with highest GPA, and was a National Merit Finalist. He received a degree from UCLA with many episodes when stressed during finals, but he did it.

Unfortunately, he died of a heart attack at 40. My husband is an Aeronautical Engineer and I was an English teacher. I am a strong NAMI advocate and know many who suffer with mental illness. NAMI provides family support groups, 12 week Family to Family classes, Parents and Teachers as Allies and In Our Own Voice to many families in North County. When a local therapist asked an AAUW

group how many had family members with bi-polar disorder, over 60 hands flew in the air. Mental illnesses occur at similar rates around the world, in every culture, and in all socio-economic groups. Early identification and effective intervention is the key to successfully treating the disorder and preventing future disability. People do recover with medication and therapy. Also, family support is an important key. YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO COULD IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE BY VOTING YES TO BUILD THIS FACILITY.

Please do so.

With much gratitude,
Diane O'Neil

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 03/02/2016 08:23 AM
Subject: Fw: Behavioral Health Center in Templeton
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/02/2016 08:23 AM -----

From: Roger Gambs <rgambs@sbcglobal.net>
To: Debbie Arnold <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, Frank Mecham <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, lcompton@co.slo.ca.us, Bruce Gibson <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, Adam Hill <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: Roger Gambs <rgambs@sbcglobal.net>
Date: 03/02/2016 08:09 AM
Subject: Behavioral Health Center in Templeton

Dear San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors,
Please consider this letter in your upcoming deliberations.



Letter BOS BHTC.pdf
Roger Gambs

rgambs@sbcglobal.net

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Shannon McOuat <Shannon@t-mha.org>
To:
Date: 03/07/2016 11:21 AM
Subject: Behavioral Health Hospital needs your support!

Hello to Mental Wellness supporters in SLO County,

Transitions-Mental Health Association needs your help to ensure that the most vulnerable members of our community are able to get the mental health treatment they need in San Luis Obispo County!

We are reaching out **to you** regarding the behavioral health hospital being proposed for Templeton, across the street from Twin Cities Hospital. The SLO County Planning Commission has approved this project unanimously after two hearings with much public comment. However, there is a very vocal opposition group of Templeton area folks called "Concerned Citizens Preventing Unintended Consequences" which is pushing back very strongly against this project being built in their town. They have filed an appeal, hence the matter will be decided by the Board of Supervisors on **Tuesday, March 15** at 9am.

While we are happy to have such a facility ANYWHERE in SLO County, the reality is this is the ONLY project being proposed. If we lose this project, the long passed over need for mental health treatment beds in our county will be set back years.

We are calling on medical doctors, psychologists, therapists, counselors, nurses, mental health advocates, teachers/professors, persons living with mental illness, your families, and anyone affected by mental illness – we need your help!

Our County Supervisors must hear the voices of those who see the obvious need. (If you are a professional who has sent patients out of our county for hospitalization, your voice is especially potent.)

There are many ways to get involved and show your support for this important facility:

- **SPREAD THE WORD** and forward this email to someone who supports the cause.
- **SIGN THE PETITION** and submit to the project developers by Friday, March 11.
- **WRITE A LETTER or EMAIL** in support of this facility and send it to the County Supervisors or your local newspaper. Feel free to use the form letter we've attached, or write your own.
- **CALL** your County Supervisor and let them know you support the Templeton behavioral health hospital and encourage them to approve the project.
- **ATTEND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING AND SPEAK** during public comment. The agenda will be posted on the county website by Wed, March 9. Check [here](#).
Board of Supervisors' meeting is Tuesday, March 15 starting at 9am
Corner of Santa Rosa and Monterey Streets, first floor
Please arrive early to submit a Public Comment speaker's request and/or get a seat.

We've attached all the forms and contact info you need to show support:

- **Petition, Project Fact Sheet, and Contact info** for Supervisors and local papers, from developers Harvey and Melanie Billig (retired Templeton Ophthalmologist and former SLO Mayor).
- A **sample letter** idea from TMHA.

- A link to the public comment card [here: "Board Appearance Request Form"](#). You can print this out in advance and submit at the meeting. We've been told by one Supervisors office that they plan to honor all speaking requests. You have 3 minutes to speak.

We thank you for your timely consideration of this important issue.

Jill Bolster-White
President and CEO
Transitions-Mental Health Association



From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 03/07/2016 01:32 PM
Subject: Fw: Michael O and Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us
----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/07/2016 01:32 PM -----

From: "Sandy Farber" <socalla3@aol.com>
To: <fmeccham@co.slo.ca.us>, <bgibson@co.clo.ca.us>, <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>, <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, <johnklimala@aol.com>
Date: 03/06/2016 07:24 PM
Subject: Michael O and Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital

Michael grew up in SLO. Elementary, junior high and high school. Many people in the SLO area knew my son as he was living on the streets. He was the blind kid with the drinking problem. He was the kid that lived in and out of the hospital because of his immune disease and drinking and spent many days in jail for trespassing or open container or whatever it was that day. Michael has been going blind since he was 2 years old from a rare chronic

illness. Over the years he also became an alcoholic to cope with the world . Along the way he became paranoid schizophrenic. Below is an excerpt of our life just about a month before he finally was able to get help and became a resident of the Psynergy program in northern California. I do believe he would have gotten care much sooner and possibly be healthier today if he had been able to get help . There was no place for him except jail or the hospital when the streets were no longer a viable place to live . I hope that we will move forward providing help for those in our county that so desperately need it . Michael is now 31 years old.

9-16-11

Visited Mike in Jail at 10:00am. Saw him in a special segregated area that I was locked into and he was locked into but on the other side of the glass. I asked why the special room and the guard said he was housed in a special unit and that's the way they did it. He looked good but very thin. He thought I had given up on him and I didn't want to see him anymore because when they told him he had a visitor he said he had no one. I think the guards were as surprised as him that he actually had a visitor. We talked about getting him some help and getting him into a place he could get off the streets. First my house and from there see how it goes. He said he doesn't want to be stuck out in Los Osos. I think it causes him anxiety that he can't easily just walk down the street and get somewhere familiar. I asked him where he had been staying and he said there is a doorway he sleeps in. It's the first doorway on Broad and the initials MEO were on the wall. He said he doesn't want to live on the streets anymore but he couldn't say much because he didn't know who was listening. He mentioned other people he was having conversations with but kept that aspect pretty low key. He said that he wasn't taking his prednisone because it was actually something else the pharmacy gave him but they were giving him an antibiotic at the jail. I asked him how his foot was and he said fine but wouldn't tell me what was wrong with it. I tried talking about Breanne (sister) but he did not want to discuss her situation or how she was. After about 20-30 minutes he said he was tired and didn't want to talk anymore. Put the phone down and then tried to get out of the room. It was locked so we waited till the guard came. He sat facing away from me and his head down. One time he tried looking up (since most of the time he had his head down) and tried to see me through the window but I don't think he could see me and after that he started to say things about that I might not be his mom and he better stop talking. He did say he was interested in my picking him up when he gets out. At first he said something about when he was on the street he had a bottle of vodka and it made him smile, sing and be happy. He said he had been sober a couple of months but didn't mention that was the period of time he was in jail. He also said he wished I hadn't come to visit just picked him up when he got out.

9-23-11

Went to visit Mike in Jail. They told me the phones weren't working well but we could see how it went. After waiting about 20 minutes they came back and told me that Mike didn't want to come out and talk to anyone. When I asked Mike later if he remembered that he said the guards were just laughing at him about a visitor and he didn't want to get up.

10-2-11

Mikes release date is the 6th . I look up his record on the computer on the 1st and notice the date has been moved up to the 2nd . I call the jail to verify and they claim over crowding and yes the release date is moved up. I pick Mike up on Sunday morning. He can barely walk (severe arthritis in his ankles) Since it's Sunday and Mental Health outpatient isn't open I take him home with me. A visit to the hospital could have been a possibility but I feel taking the time to get better on his own will

help him heal. They would have done tests and maybe given him an IV for dehydration but he isn't eating anything. And he doesn't have his medi-cal since his stay in jail. We will get that taken care of tomorrow.

10-3-11

Take Mike to the Mental Health office and talk to John. He knows Mike from seeing him on the streets. Give him the letters and information about Mike. Mike signs a release so I can help with his care. Go to the SSI office. Wait in line 30 minutes, Mike stays in car. Find out he hasn't kept the release papers from Jail so we have to go back. Drive over to the jail, get a copy of the release papers.

10-6-11

Go to the SSI office to get account reinstated. Drive over to Transistions to see if John is available. He is out of the office for several hours. Can we come back? Cannot leave a message.

10-10-11

I call John at Transistions for Mike. He talks to John but convinces him that he doesn't need a place to stay or any help right now. Everything is fine. He doesn't think he can live in Section 8 housing by himself. It would be too dangerous. Tells him he will call him if he needs anything.

10-11-11

I meet with Cami from Transitions and she says to hang tight and wait till Mike initiates needing help or they can't help him.

Sandy Farber (mom)

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO
To: BOS_Legislative Assistants, cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings
Date: 03/07/2016 02:02 PM
Subject: Fw: Contact Us (response #2994)
Sent by: Juliane Hendricks

Forwarding this on to everyone.

Thank you

Juliane D Hendricks

----- Forwarded by Juliane Hendricks/BOS/COSLO on 03/07/2016 02:01 PM -----

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>
To: "BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us>,
Date: 03/07/2016 01:08 PM
Subject: Contact Us (response #2994)

Contact Us (response #2994)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO
Page Title:Contact Us
URL:http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm
Submission Time/Date:3/7/2016 1:07:59 PM

Survey Response

Name:
Pearl Munak

Telephone Number:

Email address:

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):
Please approve the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton. We need it so much. People have to be sent out of county for treatment, and can't get treatment out of county because other hospitals are full. I have been volunteering for social service non-profits for fifteen years and have seen the need. The location next to Twin Cities Hospital is ideal for coordination of physical and behavioral health care. Don't let misinformation and stereotyping keep this from happening. It could be many years before another proposal is made. Thank you.

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO
To: BOS_Legislative Assistants@co.slo.ca.us
Cc: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings
Date: 03/08/2016 06:49 AM
Subject: Fw: Support for Proposed Mental Health Inpatient Treatment Facility
Sent by: Tessa Cornejo

Forwarded to everyone. A copy has also been forwarded to the clerk.

----- Forwarded by Tessa Cornejo/Admin/COSLO on 03/08/2016 06:48 AM -----

From: Laura DeLoye <mariposamusictherapy@gmail.com>
To: boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us
Cc: Barry Johnson <bjohnson@t-mha.org>, Marie Brinkmeyer <rsvpslo@srvolunteer.org>, Emma Caballero <ecaballero@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 03/07/2016 05:29 PM
Subject: Support for Proposed Mental Health Inpatient Treatment Facility

Dear San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors,

Regarding the proposed Templeton Mental Health Facility: the Adult Services Policy Council, representing over 40 non-profit, private organizations and public agencies in San Luis Obispo County, supports the development of a mental health facility in our County to meet the needs of residents with mental illness and their family members. The current availability of local mental health treatment beds is not adequate for a county of our size. Below we have attached the letter we sent to the SLO County Planning Commission in January outlining our views on this project.

We appreciate your diligence and efforts in helping our County move forward with adequate health care for all those in need.

Respectfully,

Laura DeLoye
Chair, Adult Services Policy Council
Mariposa Music Therapy / Arts for Living
MariposaMusicTherapy@gmail.com

San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

Barry Johnson
Vice-Chair, Adult Services Policy Council
Transitions-Mental Health Association
Division Director, Rehabilitation and Advocacy Services

Marie Brinkmeyer
Past Chair, Adult Service Policy Council
RSVP
Director

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Dear Chairperson Topping and Planning Commissioners,

As the Chair of the SLO County Adult Services Policy Council (ASPC) I am writing to you with the Council's support as concerned professionals and citizens working and living in SLO County, to ask that you please consider supporting the proposal of a new Mental Health Inpatient facility, continuing to be addressed at the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, January 14.

Recent ASPC meetings have addressed the Mental Health needs of our region's older adults and adults with disabilities. Information has been presented to us by County professionals recognizing the support needed for additional mental health beds within our County. From these presentations and committee discussion, our committee has recognized a dire need of additional mental health support in the region. As a county-wide council, we do not take a stand on where those beds should be located. We do, however, strongly support the addition of licensed beds within the County that will meet the needs of all of our County residents. We are aware that the only currently proposed facility before the Planning Commission is to be located in Templeton near Twin Cities Hospital and other medical services. The addition of this facility would significantly ease the current strain in our mental health care system; we hope that you will provide adequate consideration to that proposal.

In November, Judy Vick, LMFT, manager of SLO County Behavioral Health, presented to ASPC, confirming that there are 16 licensed inpatient mental health beds at the SLO facility on Johnson Avenue. Up to four of those 16 beds can serve children or teens, allotting only 12 - 16 beds available for inpatient mental health treatment of adults and seniors who are primarily either indigent or Medi-Cal recipients. All individuals with medical insurance needing inpatient mental health treatment are sent out of the County. This means that other

counties are providing mental health treatment for residents of SLO County. Moving SLO County residents to another county for treatment removes them from proximity to their families and social support systems, greatly reducing the ability for family and social support systems to be actively involved in visitation, treatment and the development of a stabilization plan for their return to their community within SLO County.

According to the presentation by Judy Vick, research shows that 140 beds are needed within San Luis Obispo County in order to address the inpatient mental health needs of our residents within the County. The current 16 beds available for indigent and Medi-Cal patients falls significantly short of the 140 beds needed to serve the basic needs of our County.

Please support the development of an adequate number of mental health beds to meet the needs of San Luis Obispo County residents requiring inpatient mental health treatment.

We appreciate your consideration of the current proposal on this very important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Adult Services Policy Council of SLO County
Laura DeLoye, Chair

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 03/08/2016 08:46 AM
Subject: Fw: Support for Behavioral Health Hospital project in Templeton , Hearing date: March 16
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 08:45 AM -----

From: Anne Wyatt <a.reneewyatt@gmail.com>
To: ahill@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us, lcompton@co.slo.ca.us, Debbie Arnold
<darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, fmecham@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 03/07/2016 03:08 PM
Subject: Support for Behavioral Health Hospital project in Templeton , Hearing date: March 16

March 7, 2016

RE: Behavioral Health Hospital project in Templeton

Dear Chair Compton and Supervisors Mecham, Hill, Arnold and Gibson:

I urge you to vote in favor of this project. The healthy community we all seek is dependent

upon a variety of types of housing and medical care for residents . As you all well know, we are lacking on both fronts.

Forcing San Luis Obispo County residents out of the area to seek care for acute mental health crises, currently the only option, puts extra stress on residents in need, their families and our networks of care. Not only does this pose a financial burden , but it removes one of the most powerful components of mental health recovery – a social support system .

The proposed Behavioral Health Hospital is designed to meet the policies and land use allowances of the county and to meet the needs of its residents and residential neighbors , as indicated by unanimous approval of your planning commissioners . It is a win-win opportunity to grow the local economy, provide jobs and care for local residents. Please stand for comprehensive care for county residents and the diversity of housing and medical treatment, which build strong, resilient communities where all feel cared for and included . Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Anne R. Wyatt

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 03/08/2016 08:46 AM
Subject: Fw: Templeton Facility
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 08:46 AM -----

From: Darryl Elliott <elliottdarryl65@yahoo.com>
To: "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 03/07/2016 03:39 PM
Subject: Templeton Facility

Dear Mr Mecham,

I, Darryl Elliott, strongly support the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital

located in Templeton.

The Hospital will treat children, adolescents, adults, seniors and veterans currently living in our community.

Last year, the County's Behavioral Health Dept. referred 350 patients for treatment to facilities outside our County.

Obtaining treatment outside our County creates a huge burden on our residents and their families.

Our County needs to provide local mental health services for their residents.

I ask the County Board of Supervisors to approve the Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton.

Sincerely,

Darryl Elliott

President, NAMI SLOCO

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 03/08/2016 08:46 AM
Subject: Fw: Keep us local - Templeton Behavior Health Hospital
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 08:46 AM -----

From: Dianne <dsparkley@yahoo.com>
To: "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 03/07/2016 03:39 PM
Subject: Keep us local - Templeton Behavior Health Hospital

Mr. Mecham,

I wanted to let you know my experience and that of a friend of mine with our children who have mental health challenges. We both have teens who needed a dual diagnosis in patient placement. Unfortunately, no services are available here in SLO County and our children were placed in treatment centers in Southern California 5+ hours away from home. Regarding comments from opponents of the behavior hospital in regards to school district impact for Templeton Unified; Both our children were able to either continue through their home district independent study program (my daughter from Paso) or through an online program monitored by the treatment center (my friends son from SLO). The treatment centers local school district was not offered or involved. Staying with our local district worked out fine for school credits for our children.

I am not able to attend the meeting on Tuesday. I wanted to share a thought with

you that in slo county we talk a great deal about supporting local businesses

farmers, farmer markets, restaurants etc. **keep things local**. But we have to send our most precious possession, our children, out of the area for live saving mental health care.

We treat our fruits and vegetables with better care, support, and concern than our children. We need this behavioral hospital!!!

Thank you,
Dianne Purnell

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 03/08/2016 08:46 AM
Subject:
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 08:46 AM -----

From: Michael Delbar <mdelbar@charter.net>
To: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 03/07/2016 06:10 PM
Subject: Behavioral Health Hospital

Mr. Mecham,

The Planning Commission has already approved the Behavioral Health Hospital. A group opposed to the hospital has appealed this approval, so approval for the hospital will now come before your board.

I urge you to vote to approve the hospital. We are in desperate need of a facility of this nature here in SLO county. I know. In 2012 my 19 year old son, Carl, committed suicide. He was under treatment by both a physician and a psychiatrist. However, since Carl was over 18 years old, they would not even speak to us about his condition. We trusted the doctors, and were stunned to discover that the medications

been a Behavioral Health Hospital right here in SLO, perhaps they could have admitted Carl and perhaps his death could have been avoided. How many other individuals are there in our county who need these services now?

The opponents to the hospital have given no valid reasons to stop the hospital, other than the old "not in my backyard" argument. Would they rather have people who need these services out there in our county, untreated? We must be humane and care for these individuals. They are not a danger to the community, and they need our help.

Please vote to support the construction of this hospital in our county.

Sincerely,

Michael Delbar
Paso Robles

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 08:46 AM -----

From: <lstjames523@sbcglobal.net>
To: "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 03/07/2016 06:20 PM
Subject: Support for mental health facility

Dear Supervisor Mecham,

I am writing in support of the proposed mental health facility in Templeton. Sadly, our great county does not have adequate mental health care options.

In October 2008, my treasured daughter realized that she was in crisis and needed intensive mental health care. At that time she was a student at Cal State Fullerton, but wanted to seek help here in San Luis Obispo County where her family lives (and works) and could provide emotional and financial support. She tried to find help here, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. However, there were no vacancies on the Central Coast and SLO County had nothing to offer. She was able to access care in Orange County and was hospitalized twice for one week each time. For both of her hospitalizations, I was forced to take time off and stay in hotels in Orange County. I am a single parent, who supports the family, her father died in 1999. This was a huge challenge for our family. If our county had a mental health facility, the dramatic impact on us would have been lessened. Please help our county and approve this facility.

The scare tactic that is frequently used regarding how dangerous it is to have people with mental health problems roaming the streets of Templeton is ludicrous. My child wasn't a danger to anyone, just a young woman who recognized she was in crisis and needed help.

The good news is, because she received care, my daughter is now back in university full time and is working full time. How precious is care for our loved ones? It's priceless!
Sincerely,

Linda St. James

Sent from Windows Mail

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 08:46 AM -----

From: Marci Powers/Probation/COSLO
To: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 03/07/2016 06:40 PM
Subject: Letter of Support for Templeton Mental health Hospital



Hi Frank,
Please see attached letter.

Letter of Support for Mental Health Facility in Tempelton.docx

Thanks, Marci

Marci Powers, Coordinator
SLO County Anti-Gang Coordinating Commission

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 09:10 AM -----

From: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO
To: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 03/08/2016 08:47 AM
Subject: Fw: Support for Proposed Mental Health Inpatient Treatment Facility
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 08:47 AM -----

From: Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO
To: BOS_Legislative Assistants@co.slo.ca.us
Cc: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings
Date: 03/08/2016 06:49 AM
Subject: Fw: Support for Proposed Mental Health Inpatient Treatment Facility
Sent by: Tessa Cornejo

Forwarded to everyone. A copy has also been forwarded to the clerk.

----- Forwarded by Tessa Cornejo/Admin/COSLO on 03/08/2016 06:48 AM -----

From: Laura DeLoye <mariposamusictherapy@gmail.com>
To: boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us
Cc: Barry Johnson <bjohnson@t-mha.org>, Marie Brinkmeyer <rsvpslo@srvolunteer.org>, Emma Caballero <ecaballero@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 03/07/2016 05:29 PM
Subject: Support for Proposed Mental Health Inpatient Treatment Facility

Dear San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors,

Regarding the proposed Templeton Mental Health Facility: the Adult Services Policy Council, representing over 40 non-profit, private organizations and public agencies in San Luis Obispo County, supports the development of a mental health facility in our County to meet the needs of residents with mental illness and their family members. The current availability of local mental health treatment beds is not adequate for a county of our size. Below we have attached the letter we sent to the SLO County Planning Commission in January outlining our views on this project.

We appreciate your diligence and efforts in helping our County move forward with adequate health care for all those in need.

Respectfully,

Laura DeLoye
Chair, Adult Services Policy Council
Mariposa Music Therapy / Arts for Living
MariposaMusicTherapy@gmail.com

Barry Johnson
Vice-Chair, Adult Services Policy Council
Transitions-Mental Health Association
Division Director, Rehabilitation and Advocacy Services

Marie Brinkmeyer
Past Chair, Adult Service Policy Council
RSVP
Director

Dear Chairperson Topping and Planning Commissioners,

As the Chair of the SLO County Adult Services Policy Council (ASPC) I am writing to you with the Council's support as concerned professionals and citizens working and living in SLO County, to ask that you please consider supporting the proposal of a new Mental Health Inpatient facility, continuing to be addressed at the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, January 14.

Recent ASPC meetings have addressed the Mental Health needs of our region's older adults and adults with disabilities. Information has been presented to us by County professionals recognizing the support needed for additional mental health beds within our County. From these presentations and committee discussion, our committee has recognized a dire need of additional mental health support in the region. As a county-wide council, we do not take a stand on where those beds should be located. We do, however, strongly support the addition of licensed beds within the County that will meet the needs of all of our County residents. We are aware that the only currently proposed facility before the Planning Commission is to be located in Templeton near Twin Cities Hospital and other medical services. The addition of this facility would significantly ease the current strain in our mental health care system; we hope that you will provide adequate consideration to that proposal.

In November, Judy Vick, LMFT, manager of SLO County Behavioral Health, presented to ASPC, confirming that there are 16 licensed inpatient mental health beds at the SLO facility on Johnson Avenue. Up to four of those 16 beds can serve children or teens, allotting only 12 - 16 beds available for inpatient mental health treatment of adults and seniors who are primarily either indigent or Medi-Cal recipients. All individuals with medical insurance needing inpatient mental health treatment are sent out of the County. This means that other counties are providing mental health treatment for residents of SLO County. Moving SLO County residents to another county for treatment removes them from proximity to their families and social support systems, greatly reducing the ability for family and social support systems to be actively involved in visitation, treatment and the development of a stabilization plan for their return to their community within SLO County.

According to the presentation by Judy Vick, research shows that 140 beds are needed within San Luis Obispo County in order to address the inpatient mental health needs of our residents within the County. The current 16 beds available for indigent and Medi-Cal patients falls significantly short of the 140 beds needed to serve the basic needs of our County.

Please support the development of an adequate number of mental health beds to meet the needs of San Luis Obispo County residents requiring inpatient mental health treatment.

We appreciate your consideration of the current proposal on this very important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Adult Services Policy Council of SLO County
Laura DeLoye, Chair

DATE: March 2, 2016

TO: San Luis Obispo Co. Board of Supervisors: Ms. Debbie Arnold
darnold@co.slo.ca.us, Mr. Frank Mecham fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, Ms. Lynn Compton
lcompton@co.slo.ca.us, Mr. Bruce Gibson bgibson@co.slo.ca.us and Mr. Adam Hill
ahill@co.slo.ca.us

FROM: Roger D. Gambs, 7460 Encinal Ave., Atascadero, CA 93422

SUBJECT: Proposed Behavioral Health Treatment Center in Templeton

As the parent of a 43 year-old child who has lived with a severe and persistent mental illness since at least middle school, I strongly urge you to support the proposed Behavioral Health Treatment Center.

Over the years my child has lived on the streets of San Luis Obispo and elsewhere in the county and state for well over a year and repeatedly "visited" the SLO Co. Jail, the SLO Co. Mental Health Inpatient Unit, Atascadero State Hospital and been under the supervision of the SLO Co. Conditional Release program.

It doesn't take a genius to know that Serious Mental Illness was the primary underlying cause of Homelessness and Criminalization. Unfortunately, being a criminal was the only pathway available in SLO Co. that allowed my child to become stabilized in a long-term hospital environment.

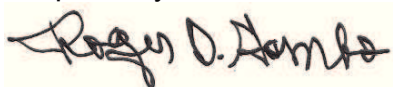
Had the proposed Behavioral Health Treatment Center in Templeton been available, I believe that living on the streets, living in the rubber room at the Co. Jail, being placed in restraints and in seclusion and progressive Criminalization could have been avoided.

Like a heart attack, dealing with Mental Illnesses requires Medical Intervention and not Intervention through the Criminal Justice system.

Please do the right thing for the citizens of this and neighboring counties and approve the proposed Behavioral Health Treatment Center in Templeton.

Thank you for your serious consideration in this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger D. Gambs", is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Roger D. Gambs

Petition in Support of the Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton

We, the undersigned, strongly support the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital (Hospital) and Memory Care Facility located in the north county regional medical center in Templeton. This project complies with county zoning and land use, the county's economic element, and the Templeton Community Design Plan.

The Hospital will treat children, adolescents, adults, seniors and veterans currently living in our community. Last year, the County's Behavioral Health Department referred 350 patients for treatment to facilities outside our county; this number does not include patients referred by private professionals. Obtaining treatment outside our county creates a huge burden on our residents and their families. Our County needs to provide local mental health services for their residents.

Establishment of this Hospital, in coordination with the other existing medical facilities and services available in the regional medical center, will enable our mental health patients to receive optimum, coordinated, and integrated medical treatment.

We ask the Planning Commissioners and Board of Supervisors to approve the Behavioral Health Hospital and the Memory Care Facility. Thank you.

Print Name

Signature

Address

[illegible]

[illegible]

Petition's Facts Sheet

1. The Behavioral Health Hospital (Hospital) will provide private, short-term, mental healthcare treatment to children, adolescents, adults, seniors and veterans who are your friends, neighbors and/or family members currently living in our community.
2. Patients are referred by their physician or psychologist, similar to a regular hospital; this is a secure facility where patients will receive treatment for common behavioral health issues such as depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. The Hospital is not a forensic facility; a forensic facility treats criminals.
3. When a patient is discharged, they must be returned to their residence of origin where they will receive continued treatment from their regular physician or transferred to a long term facility. They will not be released onto the streets of Templeton.
4. The Hospital will not adversely impact Templeton Unified School District's (TUSD) budget. If a child is admitted from outside TUSD's boundaries, the CEO of Vizion Health has offered to enter into a contract with TUSD to cover the cost for students who reside outside of TUSD.
5. According to the California Hospital Association Study, a county should have a minimum of 50 psychiatric beds per 100,000 population. This means that our county should have a minimum of 136 beds. The proposed Hospital accommodates 90 beds.
6. Veterans will be admitted under the new VA Choice Program and Tricare and through private insurance. Children, adolescents and seniors will be accepted under Medical. Federal law prohibits adults from being accepted under MediCal.
7. Last year, the County's Behavioral Health Department referred 350 patients for treatment to facilities outside our county; this number does not include patients referred by private professionals. Obtaining treatment outside our county creates a huge burden on our residents and their families. Our County needs to provide local mental health services for their residents.
8. The project is located in Templeton in the area designated as the regional medical center by the Templeton Community Design Plan not in a residential area; it is located across the street from Twin Cities Community Hospital.
9. The Hospital and the Assisted Living Facility buildings are sited outside the sensitive riparian areas. They are stepped in elevation to blend with the existing sloping topography creating a gradual transition between the proposed building areas and the riparian areas. Additionally, the riparian area will be enhanced through the project's landscaping since it will be an integral view shed to the Assisted Living Facility's wandering garden courtyard.
10. The Hospital and the Memory Care/Assisted Living Facility are located on separate parcels but share a common access driveway, interior circulation and parking area. Templeton Community Design Plan encourages shared parking. An independent traffic study was prepared and the project's projected traffic does not exceed the limits of Las Tablas Road; the study was reviewed and approved by the County's Public Work's Department.
11. The creation of this state-of-the-art behavioral health hospital will be a tremendous benefit in bringing much needed new jobs to our area. The Hospital will employ approximately 200 professionals and vocational workers. Establishment of this Hospital, in coordination with the other existing medical facilities and services available in the regional medical center, will enable our mental health patients to receive optimum, coordinated, and integrated medical treatment

Item No. 11

Meeting Date: March 15, 2016

Presented by: Legislative Assistant

Rec'd prior to meeting & posted to web on: March 9, 2016

Dear [Supervisor or Newspaper],

I am writing in support of the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital project in Templeton and I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this project.

San Luis Obispo County has no facility of this kind despite our community's acute need. While the California Hospital Association has determined we need a *minimum* of 138 mental health treatment beds for a county of our population, our County's Behavioral Health Department currently has just 16 beds at its Psychiatric Health Facility, and those beds are frequently full. They are also sometimes inappropriate for an acute, voluntary patient or a child experiencing a mental health crisis.

Currently, the only option for many people to receive appropriate treatment for acute mental health crises is to travel to an out-of-county treatment facility, the closest of which are in Ventura or the Bay Area and which are often already filled to capacity. This includes anyone with private insurance who is in need for such a facility and the hundreds of patients that SLO County Behavioral Health Department transports to out-of-county hospitals annually. Not only does this pose a staggering financial burden on our county, but it removes one of the most powerful components of mental health recovery – a person's social support system!

The proposed state of the art behavioral health hospital in Templeton would consist of 82 primary beds and 8 swing beds designed to appropriately serve children, teens, adults, and seniors. The funding for this facility will come from private insurance, managed care companies, Medicare, military plans, and other funding sources as appropriate for the level of care. There will be no need for municipal or county funding for the overall project .

The residents of San Luis Obispo County deserve a facility that is equipped to adequately meet the needs of its residents, young and old. The proposed Behavioral Health Hospital is designed to do just this. Please don't let stigma, fear, and misinformation sway you in your support of the proposed Templeton facility. Stand with me and join us in our support of this much needed facility.

Respectfully submitted,

[Your name]

Dear Supervisor Mecham,

March 7, 2016

I am writing in support of the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital project in Templeton and I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this project.

San Luis Obispo County has no facility of this kind despite our community's acute need. While the California Hospital Association has determined we need a *minimum* of 138 mental health treatment beds for a county of our population, our County's Behavioral Health Department currently has just 16 beds at its Psychiatric Health Facility, and those beds are frequently full. They are also sometimes inappropriate for an acute, voluntary patient or a child experiencing a mental health crisis.

Currently, the only option for many people to receive appropriate treatment for acute mental health crises is to travel to an out-of-county treatment facility, the closest of which are in Ventura or the Bay Area and which are often already filled to capacity. This includes anyone with private insurance who is in need for such a facility and the hundreds of patients that SLO County Behavioral Health Department transports to out-of-county hospitals annually. Not only does this pose a staggering financial burden on our county, but it removes one of the most powerful components of mental health recovery – a person's social support system!

The proposed state of the art behavioral health hospital in Templeton would consist of 82 primary beds and 8 swing beds designed to appropriately serve children, teens, adults, and seniors. The funding for this facility will come from private insurance, managed care companies, Medicare, military plans, and other funding sources as appropriate for the level of care. There will be no need for municipal or county funding for the overall project.

The residents of San Luis Obispo County deserve a facility that is equipped to adequately meet the needs of its residents, young and old. The proposed Behavioral Health Hospital is designed to do just this. Please don't let stigma, fear, and misinformation sway you in your support of the proposed Templeton facility. Stand with me and join us in our support of this much needed facility.

Over the last 25 years as a member of the law enforcement community and a probation officer working with adults and youth who are mentally ill, I have long seen the need for in-patient mental health services. The lack of availability has meant that the vast majority of our mentally ill end up in our jails, prisons and juvenile halls. The cost associated with incarcerating our mentally ill, rather than providing them with the help they need, has been astronomical. Jails and prisons were never intended to be a substitute for the mental hospitals we once had in California, but they have become repositories for the mentally ill since the early 1970's.

I sincerely believe that establishing our own mental health hospital in SLO County would be in the best interest of all the citizens of our County, for *so many reasons*. Please vote for this hospital in Templeton. It is the right thing to do.

Respectfully submitted,

Marci Powers

Coordinator, SLO County Anti-Gang Commission



letter

Vicki Shelby to: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder

03/08/2016 09:34 AM



doc20160308093403.pdf

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman
Legislative Assistant for
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham

email: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful" - Frank G. Burgess
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been" - Mark Twain

EACH SUPERVISOR
RECEIVED COPY

RECEIVED

MAR - 7 2016

Frank Mecham, Supervisor
County of San Luis Obispo

Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County

A BIT OF HISTORY FROM MY EXPERIENCE WITH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Please vote to approve the mental health hospital in Templeton to add needed help for SLO County residents!! We have an investor with local history ready to build on a site that is zoned and planned for medical care. The time is now and the place is there!!

I am a retired social worker with a Master's Degree and 36 years of experience in serving people with mental health needs and developmental disabilities. From San Luis Obispo County, most people who had mental illness were sent to Camarillo State Hospital, which is now Channel Islands State University. In the early 1970's I led a team to evaluate all people sent there from SLO County as long as 40 years previously, and began to bring them home. One young man I met and placed in a care home is still a friend of mine. An older lady had been there for 40 years at great cost and isolation. I placed her in a local nursing home where she read to other residents and helped them write letters to family. She renewed relationships with her local son and his family.

In addition to Camarillo State Hospital, I helped place people from now-closed State Hospitals in Modesto, Stockton, Auburn, Mendocino, and Agnews in San Jose. With newer medications and treatments, the need for large, isolated, locked facilities was reduced. Local treatment could be cheaper and more effective with family support nearby. The problem with the depopulation program was the broken promise that the money saved from closing State Hospitals would be available to Counties for local treatment.

I know that SLO County has needed significantly more mental health resources for decades. Our local SLO County inpatient unit and services are limited by funding and serve primarily people who rely on MediCal. Residents with insurance or money must seek services outside the County. I know many people who have gone to Ventura for service, and some who have not received help. Every year local news stories reveal the eventual cost of people not getting proper treatment.

Another piece of history I have witnessed was the closure of the old small County hospitals in both Paso Robles and Atascadero. The County zoned a large acreage of empty fields near the freeway in Templeton to build Twin Cities to serve the entire North County. The doctors, labs, skilled nursing, and entire medical community there is a very appropriate place to add new mental health services. Mental health and physical health are closely related and share many specialties.

From my experience there is little danger from people needing mental health help with a new and modern facility in our County. People and families who receive help are healthier and have more resources to manage well. There is no telling when we will have another opportunity to add such services here, and we have the proper zoning in place. A facility will also increase the number of mental health practitioners in the area for follow-up and support services.

Phil Gammons, MSW

March 4, 2016





To: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings, BOS_Legislative Assistants,
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Behavioral Health Hospital Project in Templeton
From: Hannah Miller/BOS/COSLO - Tuesday 03/08/2016 02:26 PM

----- Forwarded by Hannah Miller/BOS/COSLO on 03/08/2016 02:26 PM -----

From: Chris Monza <cjm.monza@gmail.com>
To: hmliller@co.slo.ca.us,
Date: 03/08/2016 02:14 PM
Subject: Behavioral Health Hospital Project in Templeton

Dear Ms. Miller,

Please share my email with Supervisor Hill. I am writing in support of the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital project

in Templeton and I strongly urge Mr. Hill to vote in favor of this project.

Our county's growth has outpaced our county's resources with regard to mental health facilities. San Luis Obispo County

has no facility of this kind despite our community's acute need. The California Hospital Association has determined we need

a *minimum* of 138 mental health treatment beds for a county of our population. Our County's Behavioral Health Department

currently has just 16 beds at its Psychiatric Health Facility, and those beds are frequently full. They are also sometimes inappropriate

for an acute, voluntary patient or a child experiencing a mental health crisis. I invite Mr. Hill to visit and see the dire need when children

are placed in our facilities and have to be sequestered from adult patients. I have witnessed it first hand and it is a frightening sight.

Currently, the only option for many people to receive appropriate treatment for acute mental health crises is to travel to an out-of-county

treatment facility, the closest of which are in Ventura or the Bay Area and which are often already filled to capacity. This includes anyone

with private insurance who is in need for such a facility and the hundreds of patients that SLO County Behavioral Health Department transports

to out-of-county hospitals annually. Not only does this pose a staggering financial burden on our county, but it removes one of the most powerful

components of mental health recovery – a person's social support system ! For those critics who say the facility is too large and won't fill up,

look to our neighbors to the north and south who have other counties such as our own claiming much needed beds.

The proposed state of the art behavioral health hospital in Templeton would consist of 82 primary beds and 8 swing beds designed to appropriately

serve children, teens, adults, and seniors. The funding for this facility will come from private insurance, managed care companies, Medicare,

military plans, and other funding sources as appropriate for the level of care . There will be no need for municipal or county funding for the overall project .

The residents of San Luis Obispo County deserve a facility that is equipped to adequately meet the needs of its residents, young and old.

The proposed Behavioral Health Hospital is designed to do just this . Please don't let stigma, fear, and misinformation sway you in your support of the

proposed Templeton facility. Stand with me and join us in our support of this much needed facility.

--

Christopher Monza
San Luis Obispo, CA



To: BOS_Legislative Assistants@co.slo.ca.us,
Cc: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Contact Us (response #2998)
From: Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO - Tuesday 03/08/2016 03:10 PM
Sent by: Tessa Cornejo/Admin/COSLO

Forwarding to everyone including the clerk. Thank you.

----- Forwarded by Tessa Cornejo/Admin/COSLO on 03/08/2016 03:10 PM -----

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>
To: "BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 03/08/2016 02:56 PM
Subject: Contact Us (response #2998)

Contact Us (response #2998)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO
Page Title:Contact Us
URL:<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm>
Submission Time/Date:3/8/2016 2:55:20 PM

Survey Response

Name:
Christine Parker-Kennedy

Telephone Number:

Email address:
cparkerkennedy@gmail.com

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):
Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Last spring, I met with Mr Mecham and his assistant Vicki, along with Susan and John Armstrong, in support of the proposed Templeton Behavioral Health Facility. We are all constituents of his district. At that time, he seemed receptive to our concerns and we appreciated the opportunity to address what we feel are the very positive merits of this hospital.

Since then, we have continued to advocate for the project, listening to many personal stories of those who have, in the past, been unable to get the help they needed for themselves or for friends and family members living in this county.

We attended both Planning Commission meetings in January and February, and found the process interesting and informative. The opposition folks presented numerous arguments against the proposal, but their points, in my opinion, were thoughtfully and successfully addressed and refuted by the project's architect, consultant, engineer and owners. The 5-0 vote by the Commissioners in favor of allowing the BHH to move forward was a powerful acknowledgement of the strong need we have in this county for quality mental health treatment. Three of the five

justified their votes based on personal experiences with family members who were unable to find essential resources in this county.

Now that the approval of the project is being appealed to your Board, I am writing to encourage you to stand in favor of this comprehensive and much-needed facility. This is an opportunity for our county to house a state-of-the-art facility, and we are fortunate that the Billigs are willing to fund and build it to the highest standards. Please vote with your Commissioners to allow this project to go forward, so that people with mental health issues in our county can feel supported and hopeful.

Sincerely,
Chris (and John) Parker-Kennedy



To: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Templeton Behavioral Health
From: Debbie Arnold/BOS/COSLO - Wednesday 03/09/2016 09:20 AM
Sent by: Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO

Debbie Arnold
Supervisor, 5th District
San Luis Obispo County

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 03/09/2016 09:19 AM -----

From: Susan and John Armstrong <jarmstrong@thegrid.net>
To: darnold@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 02/24/2016 05:14 PM
Subject: Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital

Supervisor Debbie Arnold
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo, California

February 24, 2016

Dear Supervisor Arnold,
We are 47 year residents of the county, living the last 20 years on Eric Lane in Templeton.
We strongly support having the Behavioral Health Hospital in our community. The local need for mental health services, and specifically for acute treatment beds, is well documented.
We have had personal family experience with mental illness and also friends, neighbors and co-workers in need of help.
Mental illness is treatable and having this facility locally would mean timely and effective treatment could be offered. Placing this facility near Twin Cities Hospital and other existing medical services is an excellent idea. The proposed Behavioral Health Hospital will result in healthier citizens of our county and a better quality of life for all of us.
We urge you to vote for the approval of this project.
Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Susan and John Armstrong

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 03/09/2016 09:19 AM -----

From: Nancy Casey <californianansea@gmail.com>
To: darnold@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 03/01/2016 03:26 PM
Subject: Fwd: Mental Health Facility vote

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nancy Casey** <californianansea@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Mar 1, 2016 at 3:24 PM

Subject: Mental Health Facility vote

To: darnold@slo.co.ca.us

Dear Supervisor Arnold,

We strongly support the Facility being build on Las Tablas in Templeton sooner rather than later.

I have family members that either would have needed this facility (my mother who committed suicide because she had to travel

out of our area for help with her depression because of embarrassment and lack of help close by) and now a younger member

of my family who could use this facility in times of crisis.

We need a facility in our county. Las Tablas Road is a perfect place as there are other medical facilities on this street which means

buses already go there and it is close to the freeway.

We feel that the group that is against it has made up reasons that aren't very strong and really it is a case of "Not in my backyard."

We have a big need for help for our fellow community members who struggle with mental illness.

Thanks for your consideration and we hope you will vote in favor of this facility.

Nancy & Glen Casey

Atascadero



To: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Templeton Behavioral Health Center
From: Debbie Arnold/BOS/COSLO - Wednesday 03/09/2016 09:21 AM
Sent by: Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO

Debbie Arnold
Supervisor, 5th District
San Luis Obispo County

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 03/09/2016 09:20 AM -----

From: Michael Delbar <mdelbar@charter.net>
To: darnold@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 03/07/2016 06:14 PM
Subject: Behavioral Health Hospital

Ms. Arnold,

The Planning Commission has already approved the Behavioral Health Hospital.

A group opposed to the hospital has appealed this approval, so approval for the hospital will now come before your board.

I urge you to vote to approve the hospital. We are in desperate need of a facility of this nature here in SLO county. I know. In 2012 my 19 year old son, Carl, committed suicide. He was under treatment by both a physician and a psychiatrist.

However, since Carl was over 18 years old, they would not even speak to us about his condition. We trusted the doctors, and were stunned to discover that the medications he was being given had suicide as a side effect ! If there had been a Behavioral Health Hospital right here in SLO, perhaps they could have admitted Carl and perhaps his death could have been avoided. How many other individuals are there in our

county who need these services now?

The opponents to the hospital have given no valid reasons to stop the hospital, other than the old "not in my backyard" argument. Would they rather have people who need these services out there in our county, untreated? We must be humane and care for these individuals.

They are not a danger to the community, and they need our help.

Please vote to support the construction of this hospital in our county.

Sincerely,

Michael Delbar

Paso Robles

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 03/09/2016 09:20 AM -----

From: <lstjames523@sbcglobal.net>
To: "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 03/07/2016 06:26 PM
Subject: Support for mental health care facility

Dear Supervisor Arnold,

I am writing in support of the proposed mental health facility in Templeton. Sadly, our great county does not have adequate mental health care options.

In October 2008, my treasured daughter realized that she was in crisis and needed intensive mental health care. At that time she was a student at Cal State Fullerton, but wanted to seek help here in San Luis Obispo County where her family lives (and works) and could provide emotional and financial support. She tried to find help here, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. However, there were no vacancies on the Central Coast and SLO County had nothing to offer. She was able to access care in Orange County and was hospitalized twice for one week each time. For both of her hospitalizations, I was forced to take time off and stay in hotels in Orange County. I am a single parent, who supports the family, her father died in 1999. This was a huge challenge for our family. If our county had a mental health facility, the dramatic impact on us would have been lessened. Please help our county and approve this facility. The scare tactic that is frequently used regarding how dangerous it is to have people with mental health problems roaming the streets of Templeton is ludicrous. My child wasn't a danger to anyone, just a young woman who recognized she was in crisis and needed help.

The good news is, because she received care, my daughter is now back in university full time and is working full time. How precious is care for our loved ones?

It's priceless!

Sincerely,

Linda St. James

Sent from Windows Mail

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 03/09/2016 09:20 AM -----

From: Marci Powers/Probation/COSLO
To: Debbie Arnold/BOS/COSLO@Wings
Date: 03/07/2016 06:44 PM
Subject: Letter of Support for Mental Health Hospital in Templeton

Please see attached letter of support.



Letter of Support for Mental Health Facility in Tempelton.docx

Marci Powers, Coordinator
SLO County Anti-Gang Coordinating Commission

Dear Supervisor Arnold,

March 7, 2016

I am writing in support of the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital project in Templeton and I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this project.

San Luis Obispo County has no facility of this kind despite our community's acute need. While the California Hospital Association has determined we need a *minimum* of 138 mental health treatment beds for a county of our population, our County's Behavioral Health Department currently has just 16 beds at its Psychiatric Health Facility, and those beds are frequently full. They are also sometimes inappropriate for an acute, voluntary patient or a child experiencing a mental health crisis.

Currently, the only option for many people to receive appropriate treatment for acute mental health crises is to travel to an out-of-county treatment facility, the closest of which are in Ventura or the Bay Area and which are often already filled to capacity. This includes anyone with private insurance who is in need for such a facility and the hundreds of patients that SLO County Behavioral Health Department transports to out-of-county hospitals annually. Not only does this pose a staggering financial burden on our county, but it removes one of the most powerful components of mental health recovery – a person's social support system!

The proposed state of the art behavioral health hospital in Templeton would consist of 82 primary beds and 8 swing beds designed to appropriately serve children, teens, adults, and seniors. The funding for this facility will come from private insurance, managed care companies, Medicare, military plans, and other funding sources as appropriate for the level of care. There will be no need for municipal or county funding for the overall project.

The residents of San Luis Obispo County deserve a facility that is equipped to adequately meet the needs of its residents, young and old. The proposed Behavioral Health Hospital is designed to do just this. Please don't let stigma, fear, and misinformation sway you in your support of the proposed Templeton facility. Stand with me and join us in our support of this much needed facility.

Over the last 25 years as a member of the law enforcement community and a probation officer working with adults and youth who are mentally ill, I have long seen the need for in-patient mental health services. The lack of availability has meant that the vast majority of our mentally ill end up in our jails, prisons and juvenile halls. The cost associated with incarcerating our mentally ill, rather than providing them with the help they need, has been astronomical. Jails and prisons were never intended to be a substitute for the mental hospitals we once had in California, but they have become repositories for the mentally ill since the early 1970's.

I sincerely believe that establishing our own mental health hospital in SLO County would be in the best interest of all the citizens of our County, for *so many reasons*. Please vote for this hospital in Templeton. It is the right thing to do.

Respectfully submitted,

Marci Powers

Coordinator, SLO County Anti-Gang Commission



To: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Templeton Behavioral Health Center
From: Debbie Arnold/BOS/COSLO - Wednesday 03/09/2016 09:21 AM
Sent by: Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO

Debbie Arnold
Supervisor, 5th District
San Luis Obispo County

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 03/09/2016 09:21 AM -----

From: Darryl Elliott <elliottdarryl65@yahoo.com>
To: "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 03/08/2016 10:18 AM
Subject: Templeton Facility

Dear Ms. Arnold,

I, Darryl Elliott, strongly support the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton.

The Hospital will treat children, adolescents, adults, seniors and veterans currently living in our community.

Last year, the County's Behavioral Health Dept. referred 350 patients for treatment to facilities outside our County.

Obtaining treatment outside our County creates a huge Burden on our residents and

their families.

Our County needs to provide local mental health services for their residents.

I ask the County Board of Supervisors to approve the Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton.

Sincerely,

Darryl Elliott

President, NAMI SLOCO

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 03/09/2016 09:21 AM -----

From: Dianne <dsparkleye@yahoo.com>
To: "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 03/08/2016 10:18 AM
Subject: Keep it Local - Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital

Ms Arnold,

I wanted to let you know my experience and that of a friend of mine with our children who have mental health challenges.

We both have teens who needed a dual diagnosis in patient placement.

Unfortunately, no services are available here in

SLO County and our children were placed in treatment centers in Southern California 5+ hours away from home.

Regarding comments from opponents of the behavior hospital in regards to school

district impact for Templeton Unified;
Both our children were able to either continue through their home district independent study program (my daughter from Paso) or through an online program monitored by the treatment center (my friends son from SLO). The treatment centers local school district was not offered or involved. Staying with our local district worked out fine for school credits for our children.

I am not able to attend the meeting on Tuesday. I wanted to share a thought with you that in slo county we talk a great deal about supporting local businesses, farmers, farmer markets, restaurants etc. **keep things local**. But we have to send our most precious possession, our children, out of the area for live saving mental health care.

We treat our fruits and vegetables with better care, support, and concern than our children. We need this behavioral hospital!!!

Thank you,
Dianne Purnell

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 03/09/2016 09:21 AM -----

From: Diane Rehfield <drehfield@icloud.com>
To: darnold@co.slo.ca.us
Cc: Diane Rehfield <diane@atascaderoumc.org>
Date: 03/08/2016 04:14 PM
Subject: Templeton Behavioral Health Facility

Dear Supervisor Arnold,

I spoke with you regarding the importance of building the proposed Behavioral Health Facility on December 4 of last year. At that time you said you had not fully studied the issue, as it had not yet come to the supervisors. Now that the Planning Commissioners have all given their approval of the project, I am writing to you and requesting your support. I live in Atascadero, and am one of your constituents.

As the pastor of the Atascadero United Methodist church, and as a licensed Marriage, Family, and Child Counselor, I can tell you that I have had many occasions to visit people in hospitals like the one proposed. They are all situated in residential areas, where they have posed no special concerns.

As the county counsel said at the Planning Commission meetings, mental illness is a disability, and as such, this hospital cannot be denied based on a dislike or fear of mentally ill people. Many of the fears that have been raised are due to stigma, and not reasonable at all. All other issues raised regarding the location were dealt with very well by the county staff. I can tell you that the traffic impact will probably be less than that which would be caused by almost any other medical facility, as visiting hours are usually limited to one small period in the evening, when other offices are closed.

Mentally ill people live in our community. They and their loved ones deserve the same care and treatment that any other ill person in our community deserves.

Isolating them by providing treatment 3 hours away means many people will not get the treatment they need. People who are being treated for depression, eating disorders, or bipolar disorder are much less likely to be a problem for other members

of the community than are people who are living with untreated mental illness. I urge you to do what you can to insure that residents of your area can receive prompt treatment as the need arises. With 1 in 4 people having a diagnosable mental illness at some time in their lives, and with each of these people affecting 3 or 4 friends and family members, I assure you this is a good move for the community.

Sincerely,

Diane Rehfield, Pastor

Atascadero United Methodist Church



To: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Proposed Mental Health Hospital
From: Debbie Arnold/BOS/COSLO - Wednesday 03/09/2016 10:34 AM
Sent by: Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO

Debbie Arnold
Supervisor, 5th District
San Luis Obispo County

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 03/09/2016 10:34 AM -----

From: WJONEIL <woneil4488@earthlink.net>
To: darnold@co.slo.ca.us
Cc: district5@co.slo.ca.us, diane <dianegoneil@mac.com>, bill <woneil4488@earthlink.net>
Date: 03/01/2016 08:50 AM
Subject: Proposed Mental Health Hospital

Supervisor Ms. Debbie Arnold
5th District
San Luis Obispo County

Dear Debbie,

My wife Diane, a local pastor, and I met with you in your Atascadero Library Office on December 4th. Our purpose was to share with you the crucial importance of the mental health hospital proposed for the Twin Cities Medical Complex.

I am impressed, having just reviewed your Website, that you specifically ask: "... how we can improve our quality of life here on the Central Coast". Our life here is indeed a charmed one with few exceptions. I would say by far the most tragic exception is that SLO County has essentially no mental health hospital. Happily, we are now on the threshold of fixing this problem which is the most serious "quality-of-life" issue for thousands of SLO County families. I implore you to support the proposed Hospital. It is a god-send. There is essentially no person in this County that will not one day benefit from this Hospital either personally or through a family member or close friend.

Having spent many years as a Project Manager in the NASA Space Program, I have often been in project reviews, sometimes as reviewer and others being reviewed. With this perspective, I was very impressed with your Planning Commission as I attended the entirety of the two public review sessions for the BHC in Templeton. Your Commission was very professional, patient, and courteous to everyone. The thoroughness and thoughtfulness of their review were exemplarily. There can be no legitimate case for overturning their unanimous approval. I have read the Appeal. It re-states all the arguments the Opposition has been making from the beginning. Nothing new. As I have stated publicly, the seemingly most powerful of their arguments are simply not true, so much so that many are very dishonest. Anyone who has

seriously looked into this matter knows they are fabrications with no factual basis. It is outrageous for the Opposition to say: "we have determined that a 15-20 bed facility would meet the need". They have no credentials whatsoever to determine anything of the sort, whereas, all professional assessments from SLO County Mental Health all the way to the National Institute of Health indicate the 91-bed facility is right for our County. It appalls me that these opponents continue to base their estimates of need on the number of people currently sent out of County for treatment. They purposefully totally ignore the tragedy that many more residents who need and deserve treatment do not receive it because the County does not have adequate facilities. How cruel! With over 35 years experience managing both a mentally-ill son and daughter, including hundreds of visits to mental health facilities, I am confident that the need is easily five times the number of folks who currently leave SLO County for treatment. The opponents further claim that the majority of patients in our new Hospital will come from other counties. Ridiculous! If SLO County now sends patients to other counties why would those counties send patients to SLO when they obviously have more than adequate facilities of their own?

Please do not delay your approval of this desperately needed Hospital to respond to further delaying tactics by the opponents. Delays WILL result in additional, avoidable anguish in many County families and quite possibly loss of life due to lack of treatment. Just consider the County news of the past few years. Yes, it is true this Hospital will not treat violent patients, but it is treatment that can prevent patients from becoming violent.

Please support YOUR Commission and their hard, thoughtful work and reject this Appeal. It is totally without merit and truly an affront to the citizens of San Luis Obispo County.

That one-thousand people would deny a quarter-million SLO County residents a desperately needed hospital is mind-boggling. If ever a County-wide perspective is needed, this surely is the time.

Kind regards,

Bill O'Neil
Atascadero

P.S., I am greatly looking forward to meeting with you once again on this subject this Thursday at 12:30 pm in your Atascadero Office

Dear [Supervisor or Newspaper],

I am writing in support of the proposed Behavioral Health Hospital project in Templeton and I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this project.

San Luis Obispo County has no facility of this kind despite our community's acute need. While the California Hospital Association has determined we need a *minimum* of 138 mental health treatment beds for a county of our population, our County's Behavioral Health Department currently has just 16 beds at its Psychiatric Health Facility, and those beds are frequently full. They are also sometimes inappropriate for an acute, voluntary patient or a child experiencing a mental health crisis.

Currently, the only option for many people to receive appropriate treatment for acute mental health crises is to travel to an out-of-county treatment facility, the closest of which are in Ventura or the Bay Area and which are often already filled to capacity. This includes anyone with private insurance who is in need for such a facility and the hundreds of patients that SLO County Behavioral Health Department transports to out-of-county hospitals annually. Not only does this pose a staggering financial burden on our county, but it removes one of the most powerful components of mental health recovery – a person's social support system!

The proposed state of the art behavioral health hospital in Templeton would consist of 82 primary beds and 8 swing beds designed to appropriately serve children, teens, adults, and seniors. The funding for this facility will come from private insurance, managed care companies, Medicare, military plans, and other funding sources as appropriate for the level of care. There will be no need for municipal or county funding for the overall project.

The residents of San Luis Obispo County deserve a facility that is equipped to adequately meet the needs of its residents, young and old. The proposed Behavioral Health Hospital is designed to do just this. Please don't let stigma, fear, and misinformation sway you in your support of the proposed Templeton facility. Stand with me and join us in our support of this much needed facility.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Zimmerman



Joyce Zimmerman

Please see attachment

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Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County

LOCAL COMMENTARY

Proposed psych hospital in Templeton is ray of hope



BY TOM FULKS
Special to The Tribune

Bigotry, ignorance, fear and heartlessness — these are the real reasons some vocal residents of Templeton don't want a new mental health facility in their town.

So they've appealed the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission's approval of a 91-bed psychiatric hospital across from Twin Cities Community Hospital. The Board of Supervisors will hear the appeal on March 15.

Proposed by former San Luis Obispo Mayor Melanie Billig and husband Harvey, the project is a beacon of hope and healing for literally hundreds of Central Coast families, who today have nowhere to turn locally for voluntary, inpatient mental health treatment.

Our current capacity for inpatient mental health care is limited to a 16-bed county crisis facility in San Luis Obispo — and County Jail, our largest "inpatient" mental health facility. How civilized.

The ostensible reasons for the appeal by "Concerned Citizens Preventing Unintended Consequences"? Templeton isn't the "right place." The proposed hospital is "too big." There aren't enough

fill the beds, rendering it a magnet for patients throughout the state.

Translation: "The notion of your ill-begotten riff-raff anywhere near our cloistered homes and white-walled churches is repugnant."

Let's do the math, using schizophrenia as the bogey. Some 1.2 percent of Americans are diagnosed as schizophrenic, consistent with experts' estimates of about 1 percent of the world's population.

That means SLO County, with a population of about 279,000, is potentially home to approximately 2,790 people diagnosed with schizophrenia. This doesn't include undiagnosed schizophrenics or people with bipolar disorders or other maladies on the autism spectrum.

Not all cases require inpatient treatment, but the trajectory of schizophrenia is unpredictable. The need for urgent inpatient treatment always lurks right around the corner. And it saves lives.

So the question is: Where's the "right place" for a mental health facility that's so desperately needed by this county's residents? Apparently, to Templeton's "Concerned Citizens," the answer is anywhere but their little God-fearing fortress of charmed-life privilege.

Heaven forbid anyone in their families ever suffers from a mental health issue.

Because if they did, these closed-hearted, self-appointed hall mon-

stros would find themselves southbound on Highway 101, headed to Vista del Mar Behavioral Health Hospital in Ventura, the only such facility in the triconties area.

You can bet none of these "Concerned Citizens" has ever had to make that trek. If they had, they wouldn't be trash-talking a facility that promises hope for the most afflicted among us — and their families.

These "family values," conservative "Concerned Citizens" should walk a mile in the shoes of a family with a loved one suffering mental health problems.

Anyone who has been through the mill in SLO County knows that while we have some caring souls, ours is one of the most primitive, incapable counties you'll find when it comes to psychiatric health care.

I know a local single mother whose adult son has had a lifetime of mental health challenges. He recently dropped off the radar. No answered phone calls, no returned texts or emails — for weeks.

She asked everyone, searched everywhere, finally driving to Santa Barbara on a tip from a friend of her son.

After days of combing the city, desperate, bracing for the worst, she chanced a visit to Cottage Hospital's emergency room. There he was, emaciated, filthy, eyes afire amidst a full-blown psychotic episode.

He was alive and that's what mattered. She

thanked God and handed her son to Vista del Mar in Ventura, because there was nowhere in SLO County for him to go.

For more than a week she juggled her job in SLO County while providing love and personal care for her son, three hours away by car. He emerged whole, clear-eyed, resolute it would never happen again.

She saved her son, but the heart-rending, long-distance saga nearly cost her the job she needed to hold everything together. The personal brutality of this trauma scarred her soul and her son's.

They're not alone. Every single person in SLO County who needs voluntary inpatient treatment must travel far away to get it. So their families must travel, too, leaving homes, jobs, lives behind.

Unless, of course, they go the law enforcement route, threatening themselves or others with harm, becoming involuntarily remanded to the limited capabilities of County Jail.

This barbarity is what "Concerned Citizens" of Templeton want us to accept as normal.

"Leave us to the comfort of our bigotry, ignorance, fear and heartlessness," they say. "Go away."

Build it, I say. Like Jesus would do. Heal minds.

Show "Concerned Citizens" what caring, open hearts and minds look like.

Tom Fulks is a former reporter and opinion writer whose three-decade career included positions with The Tribune, Five Cities Times-Press-Recorder and New Times. He has been a political campaign consultant for many local races.